

UNCONTROLLABLE FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH BALTIMORE; FIFTY BLOCKS OF BUSINESS BUILDINGS LAID LOW.



BALTIMORE CITY HALL.

Between North street and Holliday, Lexington and Fayette streets, is threatened by the fire which is on two sides of it.

HEART OF BALTIMORE A FIERY FURNACE; BEST PART OF THE CITY ALREADY IN ASHES.

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of terror, the authorities do not know of the loss of a single life. If many have not perished, it seems a miracle. There are more than a hundred injured in hospitals, and among them is Baltimore's Fire Chief, George W. Horton, who was the victim of a live wire.

The flames have jumped past the Equitable building and are now lapping the Post Office and Courthouse. They are raging squares beyond the Equitable along Gay street, from Baltimore to Fayette. Gay street is the second most important thoroughfare in the city.

A list of the firms affected is at best only a matter of conjecture. New losses are recorded faster than old ones can be written down. Looking backward at the disaster it seems as though some one must have blundered or been inefficient. Yet eyewitnesses of the beginning of the tragedy aver that it all happened in the twinkling of an eye.

John E. Hurst & Co.'s building is in the center of the wholesale dry goods district. The buildings in the blocks around about are massive but old and stocked with millions of dollars' worth of goods, preparatory to the spring influx of Southern buyers. Before a city alarm sounded it is declared that the automatic alarm in the Hurst building rang the call. This was at 10:48 a. m.

It seemed only an instant later that the entire building was in flames.

CITY CALLED FOR HELP TO FIGHT THE FLAMES.

The alarm calling out the entire city Fire Department was in and in a few minutes Baltimore, realizing that the doom of the wholesale district was evident, sent appeals for help to New York, Washington and Philadelphia. Philadelphia, for some reason, was very slow in getting here, and it was after 8:30 to-night before Chief Butler and his staff of men and machines reached the scene.

A wind was blowing in the neighborhood of twenty-five miles an hour. Thirty minutes after the fire broke out there was a terrible explosion, either in or right near the Hurst building. It was as if a powder magazine had gone up. It is probable that the cause was the bursting of a gas tank or some gas engine. It is not believed that any high explosives were stored in what was exclusively a notion and dry goods district.

Walls tottered and fell, the city for squares around being shaken. Other explosions followed, and the fire was free to spread in every direction. Its great path was cut toward the direction of the city's heart. With the wind from the southwest, toward the northeast, stores, banks and business houses lay in the path.

Once, shortly before 5 o'clock, the authorities thought they had the fire un-

der control. A few minutes after this joyous announcement the flames seemed to break out with redoubled fury, and as the sun went down there were eight blocks of ruins and the fire was at the city's very heart, gathering vigor for its attack on the skyscrapers.

FIRST EXPLOSION STARTLED PEOPLE IN CHURCHES.

The whole city was notified of the conflagration by a terrific explosion which occurred some minutes after 11 o'clock. A sharp splitting roar went up with reverberating thunder. This was followed by a peculiar whistling noise, like that made by a shell wind. The churches in the central section of the city were filled with worshippers, many of whom became frightened, and, while no panics ensued, hundreds of men and women left their seats and went outside to see what had happened.

In a few moments the streets and pavements all over the city were crowded with excited people. Another deafening crash occurred and dense columns of cinders and smoke shot up over the central section of the city, and in a huge brown column moved rapidly toward the north east.

Borne on the strong southeast wind, the column of smoke, blazing cinders and even pieces of tin roofing spread over the center of the city and a rain of cinders fell, compelling pedestrians to dodge red-hot pieces of wood.

Two more explosions followed and thousands of people hurried to the scene of the fire. Of all the spectators, comparatively few saw the fire itself. They could not get within half a block of it. Even the policemen guarding the approaches to the fire had to repeatedly shift their positions and dodge falling cinders.

Pieces of tin in 63 feet square were lifted into the air by the terrific heat, sailed up ward like paper kites and when they reached a point beyond the zone of the most intense heat fell clattering to the streets.

SCENE OF INDESCRIBABLE TERROR AND CONFUSION.

The firemen and police, who were obliged to clear the dangerous posts, dodged into doorways for shelter from the rain of hot missiles. Crash after crash could be heard within the burning district, but even the firemen could not tell from what building they proceeded.

In the seething furnace of flames all sense of direction or location of buildings was lost.

Walls and flooring fell in thunderous roar blocks away. Hundreds of merchants and business men with offices in the threatened districts were notified by watchmen and police. Nearly all took steps to have their books removed to a place of safety. Hundreds of men and boys were engaged to move the books. The Adams Express Company sent a hurry call for its men and wagons to come to the office at once. The books, desks and files were all packed into wagons for removal to places of safety.

MULLINS HOTEL BECOMES HUGE AND DREADFUL TORCH.

At 1:30 o'clock the Mullins Hotel, a seven-story structure at Liberty and Baltimore streets, was in flames from garret to cellar, and its great height and narrowness acted as a sort of funnel and converted the doomed building into a huge and dreadful torch.

All the guests of the hotel had been ordered out of the building shortly after the fire broke out in John E. Hurst's place, and there was no panic or confusion and none was injured.

Though every bit of fire-fighting apparatus in the city was called into requisition as the flames continued to spread, the firemen realized that they had a task before them which was too great for them to combat. Telegrams for fire engines were sent to Washington and Philadelphia, and about 1 o'clock six engines arrived from Washington and four from Philadelphia and joined in the battle with the flames.

Engines from stations in Baltimore,

Howard, Anne Arundel and Harford counties also arrived as soon as possible, some of the apparatus traveling a distance of thirty miles and more.

Water plugs in every section within a radius of half a mile from the fire were in use, and it was roughly estimated that there were 350 hoses all playing at one time upon different parts of the conflagration.

Owing to the great congestion of fire apparatus, the crowds of people and the general confusion many of the engines from out of town were unable to find a place where they would be of any service. With loud roars wall after wall toppled into the streets and firemen ran for their lives.

All kinds of wires had to be cut to clear the way for the fire fighters. The blocks bounded by German, Liberty, Sharp and Baltimore streets were early found to be doomed, and the firemen turned their attention to saving the buildings on Baltimore street, east of Sharp.

The fire was beyond their control and the flames ran from one building to another in spite of the fact that the firemen had done their best to check the progress of the flames by soaking the structures with water.

FRONT STREET THEATER CAUGHT FROM SPARKS.

Red-hot cinders landed the roof of the Front Street Theater, and for a time it looked as though that structure would be burned down. The building is at least a half mile from the main conflagration, and the fact that the roof caught from falling cinders shows to what distance the fiery rain fell. The blaze, which was on the southwest corner, was extinguished by the firemen, assisted by citizens.

For a time considerable alarm was felt at the City Hospital when the rain of cinders was its fiercest. The Sisters of Mercy, in charge of the institution, were all at their posts, and an effort was made to keep the fact of the conflagration secret from the patients. A few cinders fell on the roof of the hospital, but were extinguished by the physicians of the house staff.

Eighteen women, two babies and seven nurses were taken from the Maternity Hospital, on West Lombard street, in police ambulances, to the City Hospital. A woman who was ill in bed with typhoid fever was taken to the City Hospital.

EXPLOSION OF WHISKY SPREAD FIRE ACROSS STREET.

At 3 o'clock a tremendous explosion of about 150 barrels of whisky, stored in the upper floors of 24 Hanover street, hurled tons of burning matter across the street on the roofs of the buildings opposite, which the firemen were drenching with water in a vain hope to make Hanover street the eastern boundary line of the conflagration.

The flames quivered for a few moments under the water, but soon ate into the buildings on the east side.

Two truck wagons caught fire and were consumed, and an engine was buried by a falling wall, the firemen fleeing for their lives.

WITHIN HALF AN HOUR DOZEN BUILDINGS BLAZING.

In the meantime, the fire had completely destroyed the blocks bounded by Sharp, Baltimore, Liberty, Lombard and Hanover streets, in the very heart of the business section of Baltimore, and the flames were still spreading with fearful rapidity. In half an hour after the first explosion a dozen big wholesale houses were burning fiercely.

The entire city Fire Department was called, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which were aided by high winds, and by noon there were savage fires in at least thirty big warehouses, and the conflagration was steadily eating its way into successive blocks east, north, west and south.

Following after building fell a prey to the flames and apparently there was no check to the onward sweep of destruction.

On Baltimore street, the block between Liberty and Sharp was soon ablaze; then came the next block east to Hanover, and after that the block on the south side to Charles street broke out into flames, the Consolidated Gas Company's building and O'Brien's Acme burning fiercely.

Meanwhile there were stores north of

Baltimore street being similarly consumed. Mullins Hotel caught and other buildings near it. West of Liberty street, on the south side of Baltimore, the block was doomed, and the big Baltimore Bargain House also caught. Down in Hopkins place, where the conflagration started, the Hurst building and the other wholesale houses on both sides of the street crumbled and fell.

SPECTACLE OF RUIN WAS EARLY APPALLING.

The dry goods houses of Daniel Miller & Sons and R. M. Sutton & Co. were soon aflame and along German street, east and west from the Hurst building, there were dozen buildings burning and scores more threatened. The spectacle of ruin and destruction from any point in these doomed blocks was something appalling.

Mass & Kemper's big wholesale store, on Baltimore street, quickly succumbed to the flames, and the walls fell with a crash that was heard for squares. The Hurst building was utterly destroyed, not even a wall ten feet high being left standing, and was apparently the center of the cauldron, whence the flames radiated over the doomed neighborhood.

In Hopkins place, the Hopkins Savings Bank and the National Exchange Bank were gutted by flames, the few streams of water that the firemen were able to turn on them proving utterly ineffectual to even halt the destruction. Here, across the street, were the ruins of John E. Hurst & Co., and next to them S. E. Hect, Jr. & Sons, were in flames. Adjoining was the large building owned by the William Koch Importing Company, which was also quickly destroyed.

Across the street the Stanley & Brown Drug Company building was quickly in ruins, while fronting on the Baltimore street side of this block were the Roxbury Rye Distilling Company's building, occupied by Silbermann & Todes, the house of Allen Sons & Co., which had hardly been completed, while next to it was the establishment of M. Moses & Co.

On the corner was the building occupied by Messrs. Sugar & Shear and several other smaller concerns. All of these were swallowed up in the flames, and, in fact, the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire.

PARTIAL LIST OF BUILDINGS CONSUMED.

Among the buildings consumed are the following:
Roxbury Rye Distilling Company; Allen & Sons; leather; Sugar & Shear; cloth; L. Stein & Co.; umbrella manufacturers; M. Friedman & Sons; Crocker & Co.; dry goods; Schwarz Toy Company; Mullins Hotel; Burgunder Bros., clothing; Mass & Kemper, manufacturers of confectioners' tools; Lewis & Lowery & Co.; dry goods; Dry Goods Exchange; S. Nueburger & Bro.; dry goods; A. Sauter, clothing; A. C. Meyer & Co., druggist; Carrollton Chemical Company; William T. Dixon & Bro., wholesale paper; Burger & Co., wholesale clothing; Blanks' saloon; Thomas Burke & Co., liquors; James A. Gary & Sons (cotton mills), office; Charles Burger & Co., wholesale clothing; American Cigar Company; M. Anderson, local agent of the Claret-Peachby Company; John Hurst & Co., dry goods; S. Hecht, Jr. & Co., carpets; Daniel Miller & Sons, dry goods; Gligs, Curren & Co., boots and shoes; Nolan's restaurant; C. Y. Davidson, gas fitting establishment; E. Scheidtmann & Co., cloth dealers; Oppenheimer, Rosenthal & Co., wholesale jewelers; W. Katzen & Co., clothing; A. Federle & Co., children's goods; C. J. Stewart & Sons, hardware; Connel & Harkness, restaurant; building occupied by the National Exchange Bank and the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association; Hopkins Savings Bank; building occupied by Thornton, Rogers & Co., printers; Carr, Owens & Heineman and Blanks' saloon; Ambach Manufacturing Company, metals; Peter Zeal's son, paint manufacturer; building occupied by Silbermann & Todes, dry goods; Thalheimer Bros., dry goods, and the Florence W. McCarthy Company; Fussell-Baugh-Blake Company, wall paper; Rasch & Gartner, window shades; R. Jandorf & Co., boots and shoes; James Robertson Manufacturing Company, metals; Peter Ross & Sons, harness and saddlery; R. Kohn, notions; N. Pretzfelder, boots and shoes; John Murphy Company, publishers; Baltimore News Company, booksellers; the Cushing Company, bookbinders; J. S. MacDonald & Co., jewelers; the Goodyear Rubber Company; Likes, Berwanger & Co., clothing; J. W. Connelley, jewelry; the Consolidated Gas Company's office building; Oehms Acme Hall, clothiers; the W. G. C. Dulany Company; Huyler's confectionery; Wm. Knabe Piano Company; Samuel Hunt Sons, leather goods; the James R. Armiger Company, jewelers; the De Bray Hat Company; Kratz-Smidt & Co., clothing; F. W. McAllister & Co., opticians; Bryant & Stratton Business College; R. Lertz & Sons, pianos; Inwood & Co., furniture; Granger & Co., tobacconists.

FIRE-FIGHTING FORCES BECAME HELPLESS ABOUT NIGHTFALL.

Since about 6 o'clock, when darkness came, the Fire Department, although aided by engines from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the surrounding suburbs, has been utterly powerless to make any effective resistance to the consuming element. Though for hours as many as 400 streams of water were thrown into the flames.

Indeed, so terrific has been the heat ever since the fire started and so dense and suffocating the volume of flying sparks and burning cinders that it was difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, while early in the afternoon several trucks and engines were hopelessly disabled by timbers.

At 7 o'clock the situation was so desperate that Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at threatened points, and thus prevent, as far as possible, a further spread of the flames. In pursuence of this plan, a number of buildings on South Charles street, between Gorman and Lombard, were blown up. Subsequently, the splendid structure of J. W. Putts & Co., notion dealers, at Charles and Fayette streets, was dynamited, and then the Daily Record building, Ross drug store and others.

This heroic remedy merely delayed, but did not seriously impede, the onward march of the conflagration, and for two hours or more the Fire Department was practically helpless and resourceless in the face of the roaring furnaces which sent their fierce tongues 200 feet into the air and which filled the heavens, first with a pall of black funeral smoke, and then with vivid sheets of sparks and lurid cinders.

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MASSIVE STRUCTURES DID NOT STAY THE FIERY TIDE.

Following the rapid destruction of the palatial commercial buildings in the wholesale district, the cyclone of roaring flames burst into Baltimore street, licking within a few minutes of the seven-story Mullins Hotel like an insatiable monster and rapidly rolled with irresistible force both eastward and westward, cutting down wholesale and retail houses, manufacturers, shops, jewelry stores, furniture emporiums and restaurants.

At Charles street, the remorseless tide

swept on down Baltimore street, and also turned into Charles street, where it quickly engulfed the eleven-story Union Trust building, starting eastward on Fayette street.

By 8 o'clock the occupants of the Daily Herald building at Fayette and St. Paul streets, and of the Record building, opposite, were compelled to vacate by the onrushing flames, as were the occupants of the Calvert and Equitable structures, two of the most massive office buildings in Baltimore.

Down Baltimore street a parallel wave of roaring, crackling flames swept, consuming everything in its course, speedily reaching the Evening News building, from which the employees had to hastily flee, though not until valuable records had been removed.

Shortly thereafter the Continental Trust Company's fourteen-story building took fire. A block below the American newspaper building was enveloped in clouds of smoke and burning splinters and the employees were ordered out.

The financial district, including banking and brokerage firms on South and German streets, seems to be now doomed, and scores of the city's leading financiers and business men are scurrying in and out of their offices bearing packages or placing valuables in conveyances.

During all these hours the protean display has been magnificent and imposing beyond the power of painter to depict.

At this hour vast columns of seething flame are shooting skyward at varying points of the compass and the firmament is one vast prismatic ocean of golden and silver-bued sparks. Great multitudes of people line the streets, awe-struck with the panorama which is being enacted before their eyes.

At this hour the fire is absolutely beyond control, and all occupants of buildings in the center of the city are rapidly moving their valuables.

CITY HOSPITAL HURRIEDLY REMOVES ITS PATIENTS.

The City Hospital, corner Calvert and Pleasant streets, is removing to other hospitals as rapidly as possible the twenty-four patients in that institution.

Seventeen injured were brought to this hospital, most of them firemen. They were suffering from burns, scalds or lacerations.

Nearly every physician in the city is in the fire district. So far as known at this hour no one has been killed.

FIRE SPREADING OUT IN RESIDENCE DISTRICT.

Fortunately, thus far the conflagration has not reached the residence portion of the city, but fires are breaking out in East Baltimore, and the indications are that the residence streets are doomed.

Indications are that not a single morning newspaper will be able to get out an issue to-morrow morning, with the possible exception of the Sun, which has an auxiliary plant. There are five morning papers here—three English and two German.

The Baltimore and Ohio road office building has been destroyed, as has also the Maryland Institute of Art building. At 11:45 o'clock the temporary Customhouse, adjoining the Post Office, caught fire.

One hundred and fifty policemen from Philadelphia arrived here to assist the Baltimore police and military.

BALTIMORE SUN STAFF HURRIES TO WASHINGTON TO ISSUE FROM STAR.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Forced from its building by the flames the Baltimore Sun moved to Washington at midnight and will be issued in the morning from the presses of the Washington Star. Early in the evening, when the flames showed that the Baltimore Sun building was doomed, arrangements were hastily made by telephone with Mr. Rudolph Kauffman, managing editor of the Washington Star, for the use of that paper's presses. Linotype machines and offices for the publication of the Sun.

It was hoped that the Sun building in Baltimore might be saved, and even at 11 o'clock, when a special train was made to bring editors, copywriters and reporters, to say nothing of printers, stereotypes and pressmen, to Washington, it was still hoped that it might be possible to publish a paper in Baltimore.

As carriages containing the staff dashed up to the Evening Star building from the railroad they were greeted with cheers from a large crowd which had assembled at the doors of the office. The editors, with large bundles of "copy," hurried inside, and the whole staff was soon busy at desks and typewriters.

NEW YORK CITY HAS SEVEN ENGINES READY TO SEND TO BALTIMORE.

New York, Feb. 8.—Fire Chief Kruger announced soon after 2 o'clock that as soon as the B. & O. Road had a train all ready to start in Jersey City he would send seven engines over that road. Battalion Chief How took charge of them.

GREAT BUILDINGS THAT WERE ENGULFED IN FIRE.

Washington, Feb. 8.—(2 a. m.)—In addition to the list of buildings burned and crushed in the early Associated Press reports, the following buildings are reported destroyed:

Continental Trust Company.
Equitable.
Calvert.
Bank of Baltimore.
International Trust Company.
Carrollton Hotel.
Junker's Hotel.
St. Paul's Hotel; dynamited.
Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.
Maryland Trust Company.
Alexander Brown Banking Company.

At 2 o'clock this morning a report was received that both of the Sun buildings and the American, directly across the street, had been dynamited.

HALF MILLION IN CASH IN VAULTS OF BURNED BANKS.

Baltimore, Feb. 7.—The amount of cash on hand in two of the banks which were destroyed—the National Exchange and the Hopkins Place Savings Bank—according to their last annual report, was as follows: Hopkins Place Bank, \$274,919.51; National Exchange, \$261,000.

The deposits in the banks, according to their statements, were: National Exchange Bank, \$1,345,718.87; Hopkins Place Savings Bank, \$2,487,722.33.

This money was probably safely placed in the bank vaults, and may be entirely saved, or, at least, saved in such a condition that it can be redeemed by the Treasury Department.

Mullins Hotel was one of the finest buildings in Baltimore street. Many thousands of people are thrown out of employment and it will be months, if not years, before Baltimore recovers from the blow.

The losses to the insurance companies are enormous, but in many instances they will not cover the losses of the merchants. Particularly is this true with some of the dry goods stores, which had just gotten in their heavy stocks of spring goods.



UNION TRUST BUILDING, WHICH WAS ENTIRELY DESTROYED.

GREAT CHICAGO FIRE LOSS, \$190,000,000

Chicago, Feb. 7.—The territory burned by the Chicago fire of October 9, 1871, amounted to 2,100 acres, involving a loss of over \$190,000,000.

ASSOCIATED PRESS BURNED OUT TWICE, BUT TAKES NEW STAND.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 7.—The temporary quarters secured by the Associated Press for their operators, after first being burned out twice, were destroyed and they were compelled to seek new quarters on a moment's notice.

They are now located in a building in advance of the fire, and hope to start the wires within thirty minutes.

VERNEY'S FRIENDS GO INTO ANOTHER ROOM

Verney's friends go into another room and Kitty enters, disguised, leaving Julia in the hall. Verney finally discovers Kitty's identity, and she goes without persuading him not to fight. Thinking her gone, Verney goes to his room, but she is still there, and she is seen by him. Verney's friends go into another room and Kitty enters, disguised, leaving Julia in the hall. Verney finally discovers Kitty's identity, and she goes without persuading him not to fight. Thinking her gone, Verney goes to his room, but she is still there, and she is seen by him.

STAGE NOTES.

Two of the new plays of the season which promise to live long enough to include a Western tour, and, therefore, to make their stories of interest, are "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" and "The Younger Mrs. Parling."

In the former, a dramatization of "The Bath Comedy," Henrietta Crossman is appearing under the direction of David Belasco; the latter Annie Russell, but recently produced in New York, after it had had a successful trial in the provinces.

"Sweet Kitty Bellairs" is laid in the time of George III., the scene is England and the place Bath.

At the opening of the play, outside the little town, the soldiers are awaiting orders to sail for the war. The belle of Bath is Kitty Bellairs, the ideal every man in the English and Irish regiments.

They all love Kitty, but she will have none of them, the soldiers are engaged until she meets Lord Verney, an English officer. Verney is too bashful to make love to Kitty, so she makes love to him. It transpires that one Sir Jasper Standish is exceedingly neglectful to his wife, Julia, who, nevertheless, is much in love with him. Kitty tells Julia she should make Sir Jasper jealous if she would have his love.

Therefore, Julia, in a make-believe flirtation, waves her handkerchief to Lord Verney. Sir Jasper, seeing it, promptly challenges Verney to a duel. Verney is an expert swordsman, and to Kitty a duel with Verney means certain death for her lover.

To prevent this meeting Kitty and Julia go to Verney's rooms in the second act to persuade him not to fight. Verney is surrounded by a lot of friends and his seconds, who have had a bit too much.

Verney's friends go into another room and Kitty enters, disguised, leaving Julia in the hall. Verney finally discovers Kitty's identity, and she goes without persuading him not to fight. Thinking her gone, Verney goes to his room, but she is still there, and she is seen by him.

In the last act there is a reconciliation, when it is proven that Julia was with Kitty in Verney's room, and all ends happily.

Miss Russell's play (an adaptation from the French by Haddon Chambers) is a trifle more serious than any she has had for several seasons last past.

The story of "The Younger Mrs. Parling" centers about Jacqueline Carstairs, a young girl who had been brought up under irregular circumstances. Her mother is charming, but traitor father she never knew.

Her own aspirations are for a quite respectable life, and in her endeavors to gain this she makes the mistake of marrying James Parling, an intolerant provincial, who is in love with her.

She does not love him in return, but is grateful for the respect he shows her. There is another man in love with Jacqueline, named Cyril Murray, who is a young full-grown fellow, but he fails to fulfill Jacqueline's ideas of what is reliable and trustworthy.

Her husband takes her to the home of his parents, where she is surrounded by a narrow, hypocritical and intolerant set, and she is avoided like a leper by society local society.

Mrs. Parling leaves home and goes to join her husband in London, and demands from him the peace and happiness which he swore to find for her when she promised to be his wife. He then removes her to a small room in the neighborhood of his parents' home.

Society still avoids her, but she is comparatively happy. Her mother pays her a flying visit, and one father and the husband are horrified and society shocked.

At 3 o'clock this morning \$500,000 structure at Light and Fayette streets, was on fire.

COURTHOUSE OF BALTIMORE.